

GOSPEL

Luke 23:35-43

The people stayed there before the cross watching Jesus. As for the leaders, they jeered at him. 'He saved others,' they said, 'let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One.' The soldiers mocked him too, and when they approached to offer him vinegar they said, 'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.' Above him there was an inscription: 'This is the King of the Jews.'

One of the criminals hanging there abused him. 'Are you not the Christ?' he said. 'Save yourself and us as well.' But the other spoke up and rebuked him. 'Have you no fear of God at all?' he said. 'You got the same sentence as he did, but in our case we deserved it: we are paying for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong. Jesus,' he said, 'remember me when you come into your kingdom.' 'Indeed, I promise you,' he replied, 'today you will be with me in paradise.'

The Holy Father focused on the Jubilee of Choirs during his homily and other matters during his Angelus reflection, and so there is unfortunately no message for the Solemnity available today.

If you would like to read Pope Leo XIV's homily, you can do so [here](#).

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What stood out to you from the Gospel or Reflection/Homily?



Head: What does this scene reveal about the kind of kingship Jesus exercises from the cross, especially in contrast to the mockery and misunderstanding around him?



Heart: When you think about the two criminals, how have you experienced both responses in your own life — moments when you turned to Jesus with trust like the good thief, and other times when pain or frustration made you pull away instead?



Hands: Who in your life right now needs to be met with compassion rather than judgment, and what concrete step could you take this week to offer them the same mercy Christ shows from the cross?

PRAYER

Spend some time in prayer with one another:

1. Conscious of what has just been shared, members briefly name/describe their prayer needs.
2. Intentionally call on the Holy Spirit to be present (e.g. “Come Holy Spirit, please be present as we pray”)
3. Offer prayers of thanks and praise to God.
4. Pray for each others’ prayer needs. Where appropriate, you may like to encourage the group to place a hand on the shoulder of the individual that you are currently praying for.
5. Conclude your prayer time with another prayer of praise, perhaps praying the ‘Glory Be’.